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November 25, 2015

Debra A. Howland
NH Public Utilities Commission
21 South Fruit Street, Suite 10
Concord, NH 03301

Re: DRM 13-151, Provisions of RSA 374-F:4-b

Dear Ms. Howland:

During the 2015 Legislative session, Senate Bill 170 was passed, adding the following provision to RSA 374-F:4:

374-F:4-b Ratepayer Protection. I. Within 60 days of the effective date of this section, the commission shall initiate a proceeding to develop rules to allow residential and small commercial customers to choose how they receive communication from competitive electric suppliers and to implement the provisions of this section.

The effective date of the legislation was July 20, 2015, and the date by which the Commission is required to initiate a proceeding to develop rules regarding communication to residential and small commercial customers from competitive electric suppliers was September 18, 2015.

The Commission opened DRM 13-151 in May 2013 to consider changes to NH Code of Administrative Rules, Chapter Puc 2000, Competitive Electric Power Supplier and Aggregator Rules and thus has already initiated a rulemaking proceeding to accommodate the type of rules described in RSA 374-F:4-b. Further, those rules which allow residential and small commercial customers to choose how they receive communication from competitive electric suppliers were incorporated into the draft rule proposal in DRM 13-151 shortly after SB 170 was passed by the Legislature.

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RSA 374-F:4-b also states that, “ Unless the contract specifies a month-to-month variable rate, no competitive electric supplier shall charge a residential customer a variable rate, including during a contract term or following the expiration of a contract, without first providing written notification in a form approved by the commission of the nature of such variable rate 45 days prior to the commencement of the variable rate. The residential customer shall select the method of written notification at the time the contract is signed. Such customer shall have the option to change the method of notification at any time during the contract.” Rules that address this requirement were also incorporated into the draft proposal in DRM 13-151 shortly after SB 170 was passed by the Legislature.

Sincerely,



Amanda O. Noonan

Director, Consumer Affairs

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